

What is claimed is:

1. A consumer tote for a roll of wallpaper, the tote comprising:

a disposable exterior in which is formed a main access flap and a pair of core access openings; and

5 the tote having an interior in which is located a disposable core which is aligned with the access openings.

2. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

there is formed a gap between the access flap and an adjacent edge of the exterior, when the flap is closed.

10 3. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the exterior is formed from a non-metallic textile.

4. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the core is supported at each end by a molding having a hub which engages the core.

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5. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

each hub surrounded by a bearing surface which locates the hub in a respective access opening.

20 6. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 5, wherein:

the bearing surface makes contact with an inside bottom surface of the disposable exterior when the hub is located in the openings.

7. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

25 the bearing surface is circular and connected to the hub by spokes.

8. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

at least one hub has an external coupling for engaging a rotating winding spindle.

30 9. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 8, wherein;

the coupling comprises a ring of teeth.

10. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a handle which folds flat against the exterior.

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11. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

the handle is formed by two similar sub-units which fold from a flat position to a cooperating position in which a handle opening in each sub-unit align to form a grip.

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12. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 11, wherein:

there is formed a gap between the access flap and an adjacent edge of the exterior, when the flap is closed; and

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each sub-unit has an edge which is affixed to the exterior, adjacent to the gap; the sub-units arranged in a mirror image relationship about the gap.

13. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

one of the access openings exposes a coupling formed on a hub which carries the core; and

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a visible marker is located on the exterior for indicating the location of the coupling.

14. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the exterior is dimensioned to fit between the loading spindles of a wallpaper printing machine.

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15. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the exterior further comprises a viewing window.

16. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the exterior is adapted to hold about 50 meters of wallpaper wound onto a core.

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17. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the adjacent edge includes a return lip.

5 18. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the core is supported at each end by a molding having a hub which engages the core.

19. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 18, wherein:

each hub surrounded by a bearing surface which locates the hub in a respective access opening.

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20. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path such that the media is printed by the printhead at a rate exceeding 0.02 square meters per second (775 square feet per hour).

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21. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path such that the media is printed by the printhead at a rate exceeding 0.1 square meters per second (3875 square feet per hour).

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22. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path such that the media is printed by the printhead at a rate exceeding 0.2 square meters per second (7750 square feet per hour).

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23. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path and the printhead has more than 7680 nozzles.

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24. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path and the printhead has more than 20,000 nozzles.

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25. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path and the printhead has more than 100,000 nozzles.

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26. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path and the printhead has more than 250,000 nozzles.

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27. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path and the printhead prints ink drops with a volume of less than 5 picoliters.

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28. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path and the printhead prints ink drops with a volume of less than 3 picoliters.

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29. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein a disposable core is adapted to be mounted in a winding area of a wallpaper printer cabinet, the cabinet defining a media path that extends from a media cartridge loading area to the winding area; a full width digital color printhead located in the media path and the printhead prints ink drops with a volume of less than 1.5 picoliters.

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30. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a self contained printer for producing rolls of wallpaper, the printer comprising:

a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a media cartridge loading area to a winding area adapted to receive the disposable core of the tote;

5 a full width digital color printhead located in the media path;

a processor which accepts operator inputs which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll; and

the winding area adapted to removably retain a core and wind onto it, wallpaper produced by the printer.

10 31. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a self contained printer for producing wallpaper printed on media from a media cartridge, the media cartridge comprising:

a case in which a roll of blank media may be deployed;

the case having two halves, hinged together, an area between the two halves, when closed, defining a media supply slot; and

15 the case having internally and adjacent to the slot, a pair of rollers, at least one of the rollers being a driven roller which is supported at each end, by the case, for rotation by an external motor.

32. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a self contained printer for producing wallpaper, the printer having a transverse cutter, comprising:

20 a chassis having end plates;

the end plates being separated to allow a web of media to pass between them;

the end plates supporting between them a cutting blade; and

the blade supported at each end to perform a cutting motion which begins on one side of the web and finishes on an opposite side of the web.

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33. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a self contained printer for producing wallpaper, the printer having a slitting mechanism, the slitting mechanism comprising:

a chassis having end plates;

the end plates being separated by a transverse portion of the chassis to allow a web of media to pass between them;

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one or more rotating slitting shafts extending between the end plates, each shaft having one or more slitters arranged along its length, each slitter having a cutting edge; and
the slitting mechanism selectively engageable to either enter or not enter a path followed by the web according to an input provided by an operator of the printer.

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34. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a self contained printer for producing wallpaper, the printer having a dryer, the dryer comprising:

a compartment with a top opening for receiving a media web fed from the printer;

a source of heated air located above the top opening for blowing heated air into the opening to dry printing on the media web.

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35. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a printer for producing rolls of wallpaper, the printer comprising:

a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a media loading area to a winding area;

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a printhead located in the media path;

a processor which accepts operator inputs from one or more input devices which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll; and

the winding area adapted to removably retain a core and wind onto it, wallpaper produced by the printer wherein,

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the length and design of the roll are determined by the operator inputs.

36. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a self contained printer for printing wallpaper onto a web of media via a method comprising the steps of:

utilizing an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a

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media loading area to a winding area, there being a printhead located in the media path, a processor which accepts operator inputs from one or more input devices;

using one or more input devices which communicate with the processor to capture data from an operator regarding a specification for an operator's requirements;

using the processor to operatively control the printer according to the data; and

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printing a single roll of wallpaper, on demand, according to a selected pattern.

37. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use in a method for operating a wallpaper printing business, the method comprising the steps of:

utilizing an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path which extends from a

5 media loading area to a printhead and from the printhead to a dispensing slot;

using one or more printer input devices which communicate with a processor to capture data regarding one or more customer's requirements;

the data comprising at least a customer selected pattern;

printing a roll of wallpaper, onto a web of blank media, on demand, according to the selected pattern; and

10 charging a customer for the roll.

38. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use in a method for operating a wallpaper printing franchise, the method comprising the steps of:

providing to franchisees, an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path which

15 extends from a media loading area to a printhead and from the printhead to a dispensing slot;

the printer having one or more printer input devices which communicate with a processor to capture data regarding one or more customer requirements, the data comprising at least a customer selected pattern;

providing the franchisee with a collection of patterns in a digital storage medium that can be read by the printer;

20 enabling the franchisee to print a roll of wallpaper, onto a web of blank media, on demand, according to the selected pattern; and

obtaining or attempting to obtain a fee from the franchisee.

39. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a printer for producing rolls of wallpaper, comprising:

25 a frame in which is located a media path which extends from a media loading area to a winding area adapted to receive the disposable core of the tote;

a printhead located across the media path;

one or more input devices for capturing operator instructions;

a processor which accepts operator inputs which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll; and

the winding area adapted to removably retain a core and wind onto it, wallpaper produced by the printer.

5 40. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use in a method for printing wallpaper onto a web of media, comprising the steps of:

utilizing an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path, there being a full width printhead located across the media path, there being a processor which accepts operator inputs from one or more input devices and which controls the printer;

10 using one or more input devices which communicate with the processor to capture data from an operator regarding a specification;

running the printer according to the data;

printing a single roll of wallpaper, on demand, according to a selected pattern and configuration;

changing the pattern according to a new datum from an operator; and

15 then printing a new roll onto the same web.

41. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use in a method for drying a moving web of media in a printer such as a wallpaper printer, the method comprising the steps of:

20 loading the web in a path that traverses a compartment in a dryer within the printer, the compartment having an opening across the top;

allowing the moving web to descend into the compartment, as required; and

blowing heated air from above the opening.

25 42. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use in a method of supplying a media web to a wallpaper printer, comprising the steps of:

opening a reusable case;

placing into the case a core onto which has been located a supply roll of blank wallpaper media;

supporting the core for rotation within the case;

leading a free edge of the roll between a pair of rollers and past an edge of the open case; then

with the rollers located within the case and on either side of the web, closing the case and loading it into a printer.

43. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a printhead assembly for a printer which prints
 5 onto a moving web that follows a path, comprising:
 a full width printhead located across the path;
 the printhead comprising a color printhead which is at least as wide as the web;
 the printhead being supplied with a number of different inks which are remote from the printhead and which
 supply the printhead through tubes.

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44. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a printer for producing rolls of wallpaper,
 comprising:
 a housing in which is located a media path which extends from a blank media intake to a wallpaper exit slot;
 a multi-color roll width removable printhead located in the housing and across the media path;
 15 the printhead being supplied by separate ink reservoirs, the reservoirs connected to the printhead by a an ink
 supply harness, there being a disconnect coupling between the reservoirs and the printhead;
 one or more input devices for capturing operator instructions;
 a processor which accepts operator inputs which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular
 roll.

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45. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 wherein both the access openings exposing a moulded coupling,
 one coupling attached to each end of the core, at least one of the couplings being a driven coupling and
 adapted to engage a driving spindle that rotates the core.

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46. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a removable printhead assembly for a printer
 which prints onto a moving web, comprising:
 a full width stationary printhead located on a rail along which it slides for service and removal;
 a number of replaceable ink reservoirs which supply the printhead with different inks;
 the printhead comprising a color printhead which is at least as wide as the web; and

the printhead being supplied with the different inks through tubes which can be disconnected so the printhead may be removed.

47. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use with a self threading printer for producing rolls of wallpaper, comprising:

a media loading area adapted to support a media cartridge in a position so that a media supply slot of the cartridge is closely adjacent to a pilot guide;

a cabinet housing a media path which extends from the pilot guide to a printed media dispensing slot;

a printhead located across the media path;

a processor which accepts operator inputs which are used to configure the printer for producing a particular roll;

a motor within the cabinet for advancing a media web out of the media cartridge; and

one or more other motors adapted to urge the media along the path and out of the slot.

48. A consumer tote as claimed in claim 1 adapted for use in a method for producing wallpaper on-demand, the method comprising the steps of:

utilizing an on-demand printer comprising a cabinet in which is located a media path which passes a printhead on the way to a dispensing slot;

selecting a pattern and a configuration;

using one or more printer input devices which communicate with a processor to input the pattern and the configuration; and

printing a roll of wallpaper, onto a web of blank media, on demand, according to the selected pattern and configuration.